

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-21 are pending in this case. Claims 1-10 are canceled and new Claims 11-21 are added by the present amendment. New Claims 11-21 are supported by the original claims and specification.¹ New Claims 11-21 add no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5). The specification was objected to as containing informalities. Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Saitoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,661, herein "Saitoh"). Claims 3, 4, and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Okawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,825, herein "Okawa").

With regard to the objection to the drawings, amended Figures 1 and 2 are submitted herewith to delete label "RP" not mentioned in the specification. The specification is also amended to include a reference to label 8. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

The specification is amended to change "sheet feeding device 8a" to "sheet feeding device 8" on page 6, line 17. With regard to the note in the outstanding Office Action that "drum 2" on page 9, line 2 should be changed to "drum 12," it is respectfully submitted that the drum is correctly designated "2" (the shaft is designated "12"). Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

Claims 1-10 are canceled making the outstanding rejections moot with respect to these claims. To the extent the present rejections apply to new Claims 11-20, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

¹ See e.g. Specification at page 7, line 19 to page 10, line 13 and Figures 3 and 4.

New independent Claim 11 recites a method of making an image forming apparatus comprising:

fitting a pair of end plates into axially opposite ends of a drum;
inserting a first shaft into apertures in said end plates;
inserting ends of said first shaft into first holes in a pair of
positioning plates; and inserting ends of a second shaft into
second holes in said pair of positioning plates to position said
drum at a fixed distance from a developing roller on said
second shaft.

Saitoh describes a device for supporting an image carrier included in an image forming apparatus. As shown in Figure 8 of Saitoh, a photoconductive drum 1 is mounted on a shaft 60. The ends of shaft 60 are inserted into a hole 64b in support member 64. Roller 14d is not mounted in support member 64, so as to allow adjustment between the positions of shaft 60 and roller 14d. Column 12, lines 51-54 of Saitoh state “Hence, although the outside diameter of the intermediate roller may differ from one lot to another lot, the adjustment of the relative position can accommodate such a scattering.” Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that not only does Saitoh not teach “inserting ends of a second shaft into second holes in said pair of positioning plates to position said drum at a fixed distance from a developing roller on said second shaft” as recited in Claim 11, but Saitoh explicitly teaches away from the above-quoted operation.

Okawa describes a color image forming device including multiple photosensitive bodies 11.² The relationships between developers 14 shown in Figure 6 and photosensitive bodies 11 are not described. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Okawa for “inserting ends of a second shaft into second holes in said pair of positioning plates to position said drum at a fixed distance from a developing roller on said second shaft”, as recited in Claim 11.

²See Okawa, column 8, lines 30-39 and Figure 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 12-14 are dependent from Claim 11, which applicant respectfully submits is patentable. Thus, Claims 12-14 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 11.

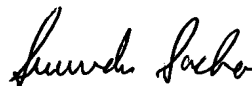
New independent Claim 15 recites similar elements to Claim 11. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 11.

Claims 16-21 are dependent from Claim 15, which applicant respectfully submits is patentable. Thus, Claims 16-21 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 15.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. The first sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1. The second sheet, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets